

NCFAS

North Carolina Family Assessment Scale for Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) Programs

Version 2.0

IFPS System ID#:	Date Intake Assessment Completed: / /
IFPS Worker:	Date Case Closure Assessment Completed: / /
Other Agency ID#:	Family Name:

Introduction

Each of the following scales is used to determine how a family is functioning. They also may be important to the level of imminent risk of out-of-home placement for this family in the context of family strengths and problems.

For each scale, rate its influence as a strength or problem for the family along a 6-point continuum, using the following schema: +2 = Clear Strength, +1 = Mild Strength, 0 = Baseline/Adequate, -1 = Mild Problem, -2 = Moderate Problem, and -3 = Serious Problem. To rate each scale, circle the appropriate number. “I” represents the rating given at intake, and “C” represents the rating at service or case closure.

The “overall” ratings (the ones in the shaded areas) should indicate your overall, composite rating in each of the five domains. The subscales represent areas of interest relating to the domain under which they appear (e.g., Housing Stability appears under domain A. Environment). The reliability and validity study of the NCFAS revealed that it is essential to rate each of the subscales before rating the overall domain scale. Use the definitions in the Definitions Manual to the NCFAS (Version 2.0 or higher) to help make your ratings.

Complete each of the ratings within 1 to 2 weeks of intake (I) and again within 1 to 2 weeks of service or case closure (C).

Many questions and issues of concern to practitioners are addressed in the User’s Guide to the NCFAS (Version 2.0). Please also see the User’s Guide for a discussion of the development and use of the Scale. The psychometric properties (reliability and validity) of the scale are also discussed in the User’s Guide.

NCFAS: North Carolina Family Assessment Scale, Version 2.0, Kirk, R. S., and Reed Ashcraft, K, 06/98. This instrument is derived from previous versions based on the Family Assessment Form, developed at the Children’s Bureau of Southern California, Michigan’s Family Assessment of Needs Form, and four assessment instruments developed in North Carolina by Haven House (Raleigh), Home Remedies (Morganton), Methodist Home for Children (Raleigh), and the state Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services. Special acknowledgments are due to Sandy Sladen and Judith Nelson at the Children’s Bureau of Southern California and to researchers Jacquelyn McCroskey and William Meezan at U. of Southern California. Special thanks also are due to numerous local IFPS providers in North Carolina for participating in the ongoing development and field testing of the NCFAS. Domain specifications for the original NCFAS were based on the work of Meezan and McCroskey. Domains and subscales for Version 2.0 are based upon reliability and validity testing completed in the Fall of 1997.

(*) Re: asterisked items, theoretical and empirical support exists in the literature for the Parental Capabilities domain and the associated subscales, and several other subscales that either were not supported or examined independently in the 1997 reliability and validity study of the NCFAS. These items will be tested during future studies. See User’s Guide to the NCFAS, Version 2.0, for additional information on scale construction and psychometrics.

A. Environment

	Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem
1. Overall Environment						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
2. Housing Stability						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
3. Safety in the Community						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
4. Habitability of Housing						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
5. Income/Employment						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
6. Financial Management						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
7. Food and Nutrition						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
8. Personal Hygiene						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
9. Transportation						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
10. Learning Environment						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

B. Parental Capabilities

Note: This section refers to biological parent(s), if present, or current caregiver(s).

	Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem
1. Overall Parental Capabilities						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
2. Supervision of Child(ren)						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
3. Disciplinary Practices						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
4. Provision of Developmental/ Enrichment Opportunities						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
5. Parent(s')/Caregiver(s') Mental Health						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
6. Parent(s')/Caregiver(s') Physical Health						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
7. Parent(s')/Caregiver(s') Use of Drugs/Alcohol						
Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

C. Family Interactions

Note: This section refers to family members living in the same or different households.

		Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem	
1. Overall Family Interactions								
	Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
2. Bonding with Child(ren)								
	Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
3. Expectations of the Child(ren)								
	Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
4. Mutual Support Within the Family								
	Intake (I)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
	Closure (C)	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	
5. Relationship Between Parents/Caregivers*								
	Intake (I)	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
	Closure (C)	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

D. Family Safety

Note: This section refers to family members living in the same or different households

		Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem
1. Overall Family Safety							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
2. Absence/Presence of Physical Abuse of Child(ren)*							
Intake (I)	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
3. Absence/Presence of Sexual Abuse of Child(ren)							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
4. Absence/Presence of Emotional Abuse of Child(ren)							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
5. Absence/Presence of Neglect of Child(ren)							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
6. Absence/Presence of Domestic Violence Between Parents/Caregivers							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3

E. Child Well-Being

Note: This section pertains to the **imminent risk child(ren)**.

		Clear Strength	Mild Strength	Baseline/ Adequate	Mild Problem	Moderate Problem	Serious Problem
1. Overall Child Well-Being							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
2. Child(ren)'s Mental Health							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
3. Child(ren)'s Behavior							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
4. School Performance							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
5. Relationship with Parent(s)/Caregiver(s)							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
6. Relationship with Sibling(s)							
Intake (I)	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
7. Relationship with Peers							
Intake (I)	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)	N/A	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
8. Cooperation/Motivation To Maintain the Family							
Intake (I)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3
Closure (C)		+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3